

**UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV), P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067**

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2011  
AT THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY,  
PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Bob Delker, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENTATION** by Victoria Reyes, VAMC Phoenix: MY HEALTHeVET, the VA's online personal health record available at: [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov) offers veterans, active duty service members and others anywhere, anytime Internet-based access to health care information, resources and tools. For more information, contact Victoria Reyes at 602.277.5551 ext. 3934, or the Library Team at 602.222.6411, or ext. 6411.

**ROLL CALL:** Quorum established for conducting business.

**MINUTES of the Oct 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting.** Motion to approve the Minutes by Mel Brody and seconded by Bob Madden. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** presented by Treasurer Jesse Gersten. Report is on file with the Secretary.

**REPORTS:**

**1. Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services – Dave Hampton, Public Affairs Officer,** reported that Secretary Bennett wishes to speak to UAV on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The new Tucson Veterans Home will be dedicated on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. All are invited. The new Veterans Home's capacity will be 120 beds, 68 employees.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, a land survey will be conducted at Camp Navajo west of Flagstaff. The survey will support a future new cemetery and veterans home.

Project H3 Vets involves a count of homeless veterans on Monday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>.

Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) update: 145 applicants served, \$660,110 financial assistance has been provided so far. Contact Travis Schulte, MFRF point of contact at Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services, 602.234.8403. The MFRF was extended by the Arizona Legislature to 2018. See MFRF data in the "Good of the Order" section on page 4 of these Minutes.

Women Veterans License Plate – Eligible Arizonans are invited to submit designs for the new women veterans license plate. (more details in the Good of the Order section of these minutes).

The Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> Vietnam Veterans Banquet at Wild Horse Pass Resort in Chandler was a big success.

Victory Place III, a 75-unit complex that will offer affordable housing and supportive services to homeless veterans, will be dedicated on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. For more information, please contact: U.S.VETS – Phoenix, 804 East Jones Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85040, Phone: 602-305-8585, Fax: 602-305-6971.

Michael “Rome” Hall, Arizona Vets Education Foundation representative, praised the AZDVS role in education. The Dept has funded the University of Arizona Veterans Resource Center and the Pat Tillman Center at Arizona State University.

**2. National Memorial Cemetery** – Wayne Ellis, Director at NMCA, reported that the Wreaths Across America Project is scheduled for Saturday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. We can sponsor a wreath for \$15 via the web site: [wreathsacrossamerica.org](http://wreathsacrossamerica.org)

A \$3 million realignment project is being worked on. At 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, a 1200-foot well must be moved.

**3. UAV Board of Directors:** Chairman Delker reported that the Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Luncheon event honoring the 17-member Class of 2011 was very successful. Thank you to all who participated in and supported the event!.

Nominations are still open to serve on the 2012 UAV Board of Directors: 4 officer and 3 director positions. Incorporation of Unified Arizona Veterans is being considered again.

The 2012 Copper Sword/Copper Shield Ceremonies event is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012 at the Fiesta Resort Conference Center, 2100 S. Priest Drive, Tempe. Barbara Hatch, history teacher at Cactus Shadows High School and advisor to the students’ Arizona Heritage Project, will be the recipient of the Copper Sword Award. Jerry Weiers, legislator, will be the recipient of the Copper Shield Award. Entrée choices are Beef, Chicken Marsala, and Vegetarian. A scholarship will also be awarded. \$39 early bird dinner price and after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, \$49 late bird dinner price.

**4. UAV Legislative Committee:** David Lucier, UAV Legislative Chair, reported that the Committee continues to work on the UAV goals of education, job opportunities, economic opportunities, and wellness and health for veterans and their families. More veterans benefit counselors and state veteran homes are needed.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. December 2011 Elections for 2012 UAV Board of Directors: Webb Ellis,** Nominations Chair Webb Ellis reported that Bob Madden, Director, has volunteered to serve as 2012 Vice Chair, UAV. The candidate lineup now includes:

Chair – Lew Bradley

Vice Chair – Bob Madden

Secretary – Carol Culbertson

Treasurer – Jesse Gersten

Director (3 positions) - Bo Bohach, David Lucier, Lionel Sanchez, Bob Skopac, and Ken Yamanouchi

One-minute campaign talks, Election and Installation of the 2012 UAV Board are scheduled for the Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> UAV meeting.

**2. Wednesday, December 7, 2011 Commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day – Lew Bradley and Judy Hatch.** There will be a flyover (B-17 Sentimental Journey). 53 wreaths are scheduled so far. The deadline for wreath participation is Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Check-in time for Wreath presenters will be 10:15 a.m. Portable restrooms will be available at the event. Thank you to Judy Hatch and Lew Bradley for all their hard work and for representing UAV so well!

**3. Feb 3-5 Arizona StandDown:** Mel Brody reminded us that assistance is needed to meet the \$15,000 expense to lease the Veterans Coliseum for the StandDown.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. UAV Dues Renewal Form is now available.**

**2. Congressional Super Committee** – The purpose of the Congressional Super Committee (6 Democrats and 6 Republicans including Senator Kyl, R-AZ) is to propose ways to reduce the national deficit by 1.2 trillion dollars. Director Yamanouchi cited the success of 71,000 complaints against Netflix and 131,000 complaints against Bank of America making a difference in impacting those companies to the consumers' benefit. Chuck Schluter recommended using emails, Ken Yamanouchi added that a handwritten note or letter has the biggest impact.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1. Addressing a concern expressed at the Nov 5<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the pensions of Congresspeople:** The November 13, 2011 Arizona Republic had a front page article dealing with that issue, page 16A:

"Today, any member of Congress who has served at least five years is vested and, after retirement, can receive a full pension benefit at age 62. In some cases, retired lawmakers can start getting all or a part of their pension at an earlier age. For example, those who entered Congress at a relatively young age and serve at least 20 years can start collecting their pensions as early as age 50."

Elsewhere in the article it states that the pension that a member receives is based on three factors:

1. The lawmakers highest three years of pay;
2. Person's age; and
3. Years of service

The US Constitution specifies that a Representative must be at least 25 years old and a Senator at least 30 years old.

Congress has participated in Social Security since 1984.

As a final piece of information, only 455 retired members of Congress are actually drawing Congressional pensions as of 1 Oct 2009 - last info available, Average retirement benefit for those 275 people who retired under the old Civil Service Retirement System is \$69,012.  
Average retirement benefit for those 180 people who have retired under the new FERS is \$40,140.

## **2. Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) data as of 11/16/11**

MFRF currently has \$2,522,334 in the account. Here is a current breakout by year of distributions. Total family figures are unique families, it does not represent any multiple award per family.

|                     |                                 |     |                       |                      |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|----------------------|
|                     | <b>Total Families Assisted:</b> | 149 | <b>Disbursements:</b> | <b>\$ 669,975.72</b> |
| <b>2008 Totals:</b> | Families Assisted:              | 3   | Disbursements:        | \$ 14,722.00         |
| <b>2009 Totals:</b> | Families Assisted               | 7   | Disbursements:        | \$ 50,379.19         |
| <b>2010 Totals:</b> | Families Assisted               | 64  | Disbursements:        | \$ 257,424.20        |
| <b>2011 Totals:</b> | Families Assisted               | 75  | Disbursements:        | \$ 347,450.33        |

## **3. News release regarding the “Help design Arizona women-veterans license plate project”**

Ginger Rough - Nov. 15, 2011 The Arizona Republic

The Arizona Department of Veterans Services is looking for creative residents to help them design a new specialty license plate honoring women veterans.

The contest is open to women veterans, family members of women veterans and school children who are participating as part of a classroom project.

Entries will be accepted until midnight on Dec. 2. The winning entry will be selected by the department and will be the featured design on the new Arizona Women Veterans license plate.

Proceeds from the plate will be used to provide services to homeless women veterans and their families.

Rep. Terri Proud, R-Tucson, has developed [azwomenvets.weebly.com](http://azwomenvets.weebly.com), where Arizonans can submit their designs. The site also contains information about the plate and submission guidelines.

The Arizona Legislature approved a dozen new specialty plates this year.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2011/11/14/20111114help-design-arizona-women-veterans-plate.html#ixzz1epCKRiiS>

**4. Heroes Without Limits Project** – Tony Cuchiara and Charlie Rhoades presented information about the Heroes Without Limits project which helps unemployed veterans become entrepreneurs/business owners. A class is scheduled for Nov 14-20. Web site: [www.heroeswithoutlimits.org](http://www.heroeswithoutlimits.org)

**5. Armed Forces Career Officers' Day Luncheon, Nov 22, McCormick Ranch Golf Clubhouse Restaurant**, Point of contact: Jerry Sands at: [G44Sands@peoplepc.com](mailto:G44Sands@peoplepc.com)

**6. Madison Street Veterans Association (MSVA):** Terry Araman reported MSVA will be participating in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, their third participation.

**7. Glendale DAV/Disabled American Veterans Open House, 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, 11 am to 3 pm** (Donna Adams at: [dadams.dava@cox.net](mailto:dadams.dava@cox.net))

**8. Vietnam Traveling Wall** was recently in Kingman (Gene Crego at: [crego@gmail.com](mailto:crego@gmail.com))

The Vietnam Traveling Wall is also scheduled for Tempe on Nov 11-13, 9 am to 9 pm (David Lucier at: [davidflucier@cox.net](mailto:davidflucier@cox.net))

**9. See Calvin Jackson for more information about rooms for homeless veterans, age 55 and above, Grant Avenue** ([cjackson@usvetsinc.org](mailto:cjackson@usvetsinc.org)).

**10. 50/50 Raffle winner:** Lew Bradley, \$29; \$29.00 to the Treasury.

**Next Meeting: Saturday, Dec 3, State Veteran Home, Liberty Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 10 am to Noon.**

Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROL CULBERTSON  
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